

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/709,721
Docket No.: 11481-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action mailed on March 7, 2005 rejected presently pending claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (U.S. Patent No. 5,606,593, "Smith" hereinafter) in view of well known prior art (MPEP 2144.03).

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-3 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer; claims 4, 5 remain allowed in the present application; claims 6-8 are added. These amendments and additions are specifically described hereinafter. It is believed that the foregoing amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

Discussion of Office Action Rejections

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-3 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant takes this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

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New Claims

Claims 6-8 have been newly added to further define and/or clarify the scope of the invention. Claim 6 is independent, while claims 7 and 8 are dependent on claim 6. Claims 6-8 are allowable for at least the reasons stated below.

The Examiner acknowledged in the Office Action that the subject matter of claim 4 comprises an audio monitor and claim 4 was allowed because the prior art of record fails to disclose or fairly suggest an audio monitor.

Since the subject matter of each of claims 6-8 also comprises an audio monitor, claims 6-8 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to disclose or fairly suggest an audio monitor.

References Cited

The other references cited by the Office Action has been considered, but are not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

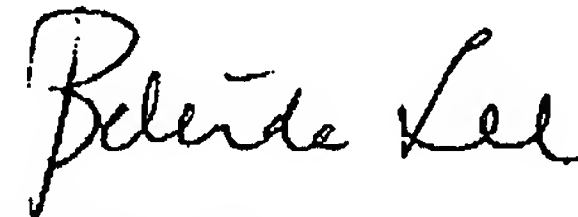
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the claims 4-8 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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